
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6724

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL MOTOR VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE IN RECOGNITION OF "THE BORINQUENEERS".

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to issue commemorative license plates in recognition of the "The Borinqueneers" (the primarily Puerto Rican members of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army who served with distinction). Under the bill, the commissioner is required to determine the design of the plates in consultation with Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc.

The bill requires a \$60 fee for this plate, in addition to the regular fees for registering a motor vehicle. Under the bill:

1. \$15 of the fee must be deposited in an account controlled by the DMV for the cost of (a) producing, (b) issuing, (c) renewing, and (d) replacing the license plates; and
2. \$45 of the fee must be deposited in an account for Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. to provide bilingual services and assistance to Connecticut veterans and armed forces members.

The plates must have numbers and letters selected by DMV, but the commissioner may charge a higher fee for license plates that (1) have the numbers and letters from a previously-issued plate or (2) have letters instead of numbers or are low number plates, in addition to the fees set for these registrations by law.

The bill requires that no additional fee be charged for the (1) renewal of this license plate or (2) transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with a "The Borinqueneers" plate.

The bill establishes the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut commemorative account as a separate account in the General Fund to receive all of the fees other than the money designated for DMV's cost and permits the Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. to deposit private donations in this account. Under the bill, funds in the account must be distributed quarterly by the Office of Policy and Management secretary to Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc., which can use the funds as described above.

The bill allows DMV to adopt regulations to set standards and procedures for issuing, renewing, and replacing these license plates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Definition of a Veteran

A "veteran" is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions, or released with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge based on a qualifying condition, from active service in the armed forces (i.e. the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Air Force, and any of their reserve components, including the Connecticut National Guard when under federal service) (CGS § 27-103).

A qualifying condition is a (1) post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury diagnosis by a licensed health care professional at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility; (2) military sexual trauma disclosed to such a health care professional; or (3) determination by the Qualifying Review Board that sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression was more likely than not the primary reason for the OTH discharge (CGS § 27-103).

Related Bills

sHB 5074, favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, requires the motor vehicles commissioner, at the request of a woman who is a veteran or member of the armed forces, to register a motor vehicle and issue a special certificate of registration and a set of

license plates commemorating the woman's service.

HB 5787 (File 40), favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, allows veterans and members of the armed forces who get a license plate recognizing the Military Order of the Purple Heart to apply for reimbursement of the cost of joining a chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in order to get the license plate.

HB 6734, favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, reduces the fee for veterans and armed forces members, for certain military-related license plates, to the cost to make these plates.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2025)